have been envisaged to be implemented during the financial year 2002-03 are as under:—

(i) Sixteen pairs inter-city Jan Shatabdi Express train services proposed to be introduced in various parts of the country.

(ii) A pilot project is being launched for development of Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS).

(iii) 150 more Passenger Reservation System (PRS) locations would be added across the country.

(c) Does not arise.

Siding charges for locos

5499. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was inaction/delay in the revision of siding charges in respect of locos used for hauling wagons on private colliery sidings of Bilaspur-Katni Section, during the year 2000-01;

(b) whether this lapse on the part of Railway Administration resulted in short recovery of more than Rs. 25.00 crores by South Eastern Railways; and

(c) whether this was brought to the notice of the Railway Administration by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India in October, 2001, and if so, Government's reply thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Comptroller & Auditor General of India has, *vide* para no. 2.1.1 in his Report No. 9 of 2002, mentioned about loss of Rs. 24.67 crores due to non-revision of siding/shunting charges for various sidings on South Eastern Railway. The Report is under examination for taking necessary action as per extant rules.

Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre

5500. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made in this regard;

(d) whether any recommendation were made in the 89th Indian Science Congress for disasters preparedness of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal to set up an Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre (EREC) has recently been approved by the Government. The principal mandate of the EREC is to collate and integrate various data sets and to prepare the site-specific earthquake risk maps. The centre is being located as a separate wing of India Meteorological Department, New Dehli. Under the 10th Five Year Plan, required amount has been allocated to initiated the envisaged activities of EREC.

(d) to (f) The recommendations of 89th Indian Science Congress, held at Lucknow during 3rd to 7th January 2002, are awaited.

Support to Science and Technology Projects of Karnataka

5501. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) which proejcts serviced by Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology are supported by the Department of Science and Technology during 2001-2002; and

(b) the amount released to Karnataka for these projects during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Department of